

**Latin American Federation for Culture Collections, FELACC Present and future**

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**Resumo:**

Latin American Federation for Culture Collections (FELACC) is a non profit academic organization devoted to promote actions for development of culture collections in Latin American and the Caribbean countries. The main objective is to provide a framework to ensure regional activities on preservation of microorganisms and to supply services and advices to the scientific community, industry, agriculture, medicine, veterinary, education and conservation of natural environment. Their activities aim to promote studies on procedures for isolation, characterization, preservation and distribution of cultures, training courses and exchange of information on microorganisms. Joint research between affiliated collections, universities and research institutes of the region is also promoted. Currently more than 40 collections from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, México, Uruguay and Venezuela are associated. The collections arose as a result of research projects in public universities or official centers, with specific interest in different areas such as agriculture, health, environment, industry and food. Latin American Federation for Culture Collections members participate with other organizations in programs for *ex situ* microbial preservation world wide. Affiliate collections kept together over 35,500 cultures representatives of different taxonomic groups of Bacteria, Fungi, animal viruses, mammalian cell cultures, as well as bacteriophages, plasmids and vectors for cloning. Since 2004 a database on cultures preserved in the region is being structured. Up today information is available at: [www.amm.org.ar](http://www.amm.org.ar). Although the number of microorganisms so far represented at FELACC collections may be considered small in relation to those estimated for the region it represents a significant effort on global conservation of microbial diversity.

**Palavras-chaves:** Microorganisms, Culture collections, FELACC, Conservation